



MONTANA CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE SERVICES

FOR MONTANANS WITH DISABILITIES

EXHIBIT 3

DATE 2/7/2011

Independent Living is a philosophy and a movement of people with disabilities who work for self-determination, equal opportunities and self-respect for all people with disabilities. Independent Living means being in control of your own life, taking responsibility for your own actions, taking risks, and having the right to either fail or succeed on your own terms. It means participating in community life and pursuing activities based entirely upon self-determined interests and preferences. People want to grow up and live with our own families, go to the neighborhood school, use the same bus as our neighbors, work in jobs that are in line with our education and interests while being fairly and competitively compensated, and be able to start and raise families of our own.

To support these goals, Montana's Centers for Independent Living (CILs), non-residential, consumer-controlled, community-based, private, non-profit organizations that provide individual and systems advocacy services by and for persons with all types of disabilities, work with individuals of all ages and types of disabilities to obtain the services they need to preserve their right to choose, to live, and to fully and equally participate in society. CILs serve as a strong voice on a wide range of national, state and local issues and work to assure physical, attitudinal, and programmatic access to housing, employment, transportation, communities, recreation, and health and social services.

Montana's four Centers for Independent Living are:

Living Independently For Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT)

- Billings, serving 18 Southeastern Montana Counties

Montana Independent Living Project (MILP)

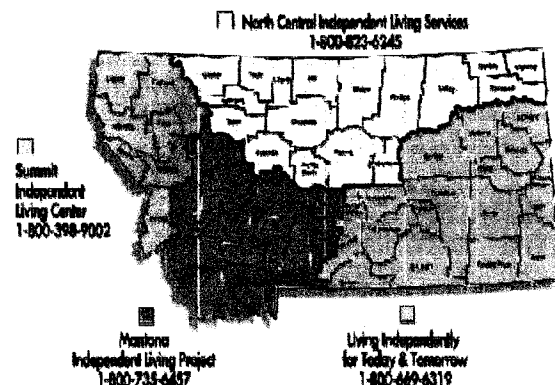
- Helena, serving 14 Southwest Montana Counties

North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS)

- Great Falls, serving 17 North Central and Eastern Montana Counties

Summit Independent Living Center

- Missoula, serving 7 Western Montana Counties



Legislative Priorities:

→ To maintain current services and restore funding levels for **Home and Community-Based Service waiver slots** that are currently filled and being utilized. This includes providing funding for 80 slots that were appropriated during the 2009 session with OTO funds and reinstating the 2.22% funding reduction that was a part of the 5% reduction plan.

→ To reinstate the 2.22% funding reduction to **Personal Assistance Services** that was a part of the 5% reduction plan that would reduce the amount of time PAS consumers have for meals to 4 hours per week or 11.5 minutes per meal.

→ To maintain **Medicaid provider rates** at their current 2010 level over the next biennium rather than retracting those rates to 2009 levels and to support the continuation of funding for the **Health Care for Health Care Workers** program to provide health insurance coverage for direct care workers in Montana.

→ To support the passage of HB (? , LC 1521), which appropriates \$50,000/year of the biennium to support the **Montana Youth Transitions Project**, creating a seamless system of support among families, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies for youth going through the transition from high school to adult life.

→ To support the funding request for the **Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities** program, which has been a highly successful program thus far and is vital for Montanans with disabilities to be able to go or return to work

→ To ensure that any **mail balloting** legislation include provisions that guarantee accessibility in voting and all other electoral processes for people with disabilities, especially the right to a private, accessible ballot.

→ To prevent the state from turning the Medicaid program over to a private, for-profit managed care firm, which has not had adequate, meaningful stakeholder involvement or planning on how such a change would affect long-term care services and the community jobs in this industry, which add millions per year to local Montana economies.

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Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow

Providing Independent Living Services for 18 Eastern Montana Counties

CONSUMER SERVICES: HELPING PROMOTE CHOICES IN SELF DIRECTION.

1. Information & Referral: *Where can I find help to make an informed choice?*

- Affordable & accessible housing
- Energy assistance
- Service Animals
- Assistive devices/equipment
- Food stamps
- Social Security Benefits
- Employment opportunities
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Transportation

2. Advocacy Services/Legal Referral: *Teaching you your rights & to take responsibility & actively participate in your own life .*

- housing/landlord/tenant issues
- income and benefits
- accessibility
- accommodations/disclosure
- health
- education
- employment
- social acceptance

3. Peer Support or Advocacy: *Who can I work with to help me live more independently?*

People with disabilities have a variety of personal experience to share in a supportive manner. IL Centers are inclusive in regard to peers being of any age, cultural or other diverse backgrounds. Peer support can build a sense of community and belonging in our lives.

Peer Advocates are available for individual support and provide helpful tips for daily living

Peer Social and Support groups are available for meeting more people with disabilities

Youth Peer Mentoring empowers youth 11-30 with disabilities in our community to make positive life choices that enable them to maximize their personal potential through self advocacy.

- Develop and enhance an individual's identity while living confidently with a disability through peer mentorship.
- To help youth with disabilities become effectively and successfully integrated into school, career, or workplace through self advocacy.
- To articulate a sense of purpose for their lives, and pursuing life goals.
- To acquire necessary skills to live as independently as possible and become lifelong learners.

4. Skills Training: *One-on-One or Small Group Classes and Workshops*

Enhance Personal Growth and Life Skills to Promote Independence - Classes rotate seasonally

- Living Well with a Disability
- Local Community Resources

5. Self Direct Personal Assistant Service: *In-home personal care needs*

In keeping with our mission of helping consumers live as independently as possible, LIFTT provides Self Directed Personal Assistant Services. A Medicaid driven program, Self Directed Personal Assistant Services allow people with disabilities who qualify under Medicaid guidelines or their representatives to hire, train and supervise the personal assistants working in their homes allowing the consumer to stay in their own home and community.

6. Transitions Skills: *any IL services that may affect you during a change in your life*

- **Youth Transitions** – Working with youth, 11 – 30 years of age in various transition stages of life
- **Nursing Home Transitions** – people living in or danger of moving into an institutional setting

COMMUNITY SERVICES: ADVANCING OUR CIVIL RIGHTS & EQUAL ACCESS.

1. Social Change *(Schools, Businesses, Stores, Events, Recreation)*

- Acceptance, Inclusion, Opportunity, Diversity
- Community awareness, education and advocacy regarding disability issues
- Disability and Independent Living Advocacy (IL Philosophy, Culture, and Pride)

2. Systems Change *(Laws, Policies, Protections, Requirements)*

- Help pass legislation at the local, state and national levels
- Write letters to the editor, etc.
- Testify at hearings, public meetings, congressional forums
- Attend conferences, symposiums
- Collaborate with allied organizations and individuals
- Send out Action Alerts
- Perform access consultations (identify accessibility issues & document remedies)
- Work to Expand ADA's civil rights through
 - employment protections,
 - State and Local governmental operations
 - public transportation options,
 - public accommodations, and
 - telecommunication services

For more information visit our website: <http://www.liftt.org>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/LIFTT>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Living-Independently-for-Today-and-Tomorrow-LIFTT/129895870365539>

June, 2010



MONTANA INDEPENDENT LIVING PROJECT, INC.

Promoting Independence for People with Disabilities

Helena: 34 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 500 • Helena, MT 59601 • 406-442-5755

Butte: 1941 Harrison Avenue • Butte, MT 59701 • 406-782-4834

Bozeman: 1165 N. 14th Avenue #4 • Bozeman, MT 59715 • 406-522-7300

Dillon: 435 S. Atlantic #2 • Dillon, MT 59725 • 406-925-9005

www.milp.us

MILP strives to support the development and expansion of community based services which directly facilitate independence, productivity and quality of life for people with disabilities.

CONSUMER SERVICES: HELPING PROMOTE CHOICES IN SELF DIRECTION.

1. Information & Referral: *Where can I find help to make an informed choice?*

- Affordable & accessible housing
- Energy assistance
- Service Animals
- Assistive devices/equipment
- Food stamps
- Social Security Benefits
- Employment opportunities
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Transportation

2. Advocacy Services/Legal Referral: *Learn rights & take responsibility for services.*

- housing/landlord/tenant issues
- job discrimination
- income and benefits
- accessibility

3. Peer Support or Advocacy: *Who can I work with to help me live more independently?*

People with disabilities have a variety of personal experience to share in a supportive manner. IL Centers are inclusive in regard to peers being of any age, cultural or other diverse backgrounds. Peer support can build a sense of community and belonging in our lives.

Peer Advocates are available for individual support and provide helpful tips for daily living

Peer Social and Support groups are available for meeting more people with disabilities

Peer Working Groups discuss and agree on local goals that they would like to accomplish

People First offers regular member meetings & activities for people with developmental disabilities

4. Skills Training: *One-on-One or Small Group Classes and Workshops*

Enhance Personal Growth and Life Skills to Promote Independence - Classes rotate seasonally

- Living Well with a Disability
- Working Well with a Disability
- Disability History & Culture
- Local Community Resources

5. Self Direct Personal Assistant Service: *In-home personal care needs*

This program is designed for people with disabilities who have long-term care needs, have full coverage under Montana Medicaid, and want to direct their in-home personal assistance services. To participate in this program, you must require assistance with personal care tasks or health maintenance activities and be able to manage paperwork and duties required by this Medicaid program. Eligible persons may also have a family member or other personal representative direct services on their behalf.

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Youth Transitions – Working with youth, 14 – 30 years of age in various transition stages of life

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Montana Independent Living Project, Inc.

Promoting independence for people with disabilities

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- Collaborate with allied organizations and individuals
- Send out Action Alerts
- Perform access consultations (identify accessibility issues & document remedies)
- Expand ADA's civil rights through
employment protections,
State and Local governmental operations
public transportation options,
public accommodations, and
telecommunication services

For more information visit our website: www.milp.us

North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. (NCILS)

A Montana Center for Independent Living

NCILS Mission and Goal is to provide access to a more independent lifestyle for persons with disabilities through advocacy, public education, coordination of services and information as directed by consumer needs; NCILS shall be guided by the principles of consumer control

CONSUMER SERVICES: HELPING PROMOTE CHOICES IN SELF DIRECTION.

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- Affordable & accessible housing
- Energy assistance
- Service Animals
- Assistive devices/equipment
- Food stamps
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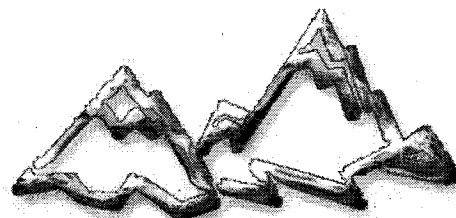
For more information visit our website: **www.montanaylf.org**

6/2010

Summit

Independent Living Center, Inc.

An Advocacy & Resource Center for Montanans with Disabilities



Serving Western Montana since 1981

700 SW Higgins, Suite 101, Missoula, MT 59803 • (406) 728-1630 TT/Voice • Fax (406) 829-3309 • www.summitilc.org

SUMMIT'S MISSION IS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY AWARENESS, EQUAL ACCESS, & THE INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION & THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

CONSUMER SERVICES: HELPING PROMOTE CHOICES IN SELF DIRECTION

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AN ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE CENTER FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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 - Expand Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)'s civil rights (1990 – 2010) through employment protections,
 - State and Local governmental operations
 - public transportation options,
 - public accommodations, and
 - telecommunication services

For more information visit our

Website:

www.summitilc.org

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Summit-Independent-Living-Center-Inc/98467702265>

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/mtilactnalrt

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/summitilc